

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

ACDA-05 ERDA-05 IO-10 /087 W
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P R 121848Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6475

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

SECDEF

CINCPAC

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCPACFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 17449

DEFENSE FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, UK, SN, US

SUBJECT: US NAVAL USE OF SINGAPORE NAVAL FACILITIES

REF: (A) STATE 265844; (B) LONDON 17361

1. WE CONVEYED DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ORALLY TO BEVAN, HEAD OF FCO'S SOUTHWEST PACIFIC DEPARTMENT, AND HIS DEPUTY, DECOURCY-IRELAND, ON NOVEMBER 12. THEY REQUESTED WE GIVE THEM THE MESSAGE IN WRITING, SINCE THEY WANT TO CONVEY IT IN EXACT TERMS TO DECISION-MAKING APPARATUS OF HMG.

2. FCO OFFICERS EMPHASIZED THEIR BELIEF THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED AT ONCE WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONVENTIONAL WARSHIPS SEPARATELY FROM NPW. SINCE NPW ACCESS IS A COMPLEX ISSUE WHICH IQ BOUND TO TAKE MUCH MORE TIME THAN CONVENTIONAL ACCESS, THEY STRESSED THAT THE ISSUE ON CONVENTIONAL ACCESS MUST BE SETTLED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE
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BRITISH PERSONNEL ARE LEAVING AT THE END OF THIS YEAR.

THEY NOTED THAT SETTLEMENT OF CONVENTIONAL ACCESS ISSUE WOULD NOT PREJUDICE A SETTLEMENT OF THE NPW ACCESS, "SINCE ON BOTH ISSUES WE ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE ANYWAY."

3. ON THE SEQUENCE OF STEPS PROCEDURE ENVISAGED BY USG, BEVAN AND DECOURCY-IRELAND EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET SMME FORM OF BROAD AGREEMENT ON MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL BETWEEN RN AND USN FIRST BEFORE TAKING THE MATTER UP WITH GOS. THEY ALSO STRESSED THAT BEFORE APPROACHING GOS, HMG MUST HAVE SOME DISCUSSION WITH US ON FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION. THEY NOTED THAT ARRANGEMENTS PREVIOUSLY WORKED OUT BY HMG SUITED HMG, AND THAT ANY NEW ARRANGEMENTS COULD NOT COST HMG MORE.

4. WE ARE TRANSMITTING USG POSITION IN WRITING, EXTRACTED FROM REFTTEL A, AS REQUESTED BY FCO. LATTER CAN THEN BE EXPECTED TO REITERATE ITS PROCEDURAL COUNTERPROPOSAL AS SET FORTH IN PARA 3 ABOVE. WE THINK THAT HMG, UPON REFLECTION, WILL WANT TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO SERVICE-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE HOPE OF SETTLING AT THAT LEVEL ALL TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS. WE DOUBT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO DEVELOP MUCH MORE INFO ON THEIR THOUGHTS ON ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUELING, MILITARY POLICIES, NAVAL SHIPS, ACCESS TO PORTS, PORT FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON17449
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750394-0075
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751150/aaaabtbb.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 265844, 75 LONDON 17361
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US NAVAL USE OF SINGAPORE NAVAL FACILITIES
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, UK, SN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006